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Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

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Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

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the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session[2] constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits,

Recalling also the commitment to promote national and global economic systems based on the principles of justice, equity, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion,

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Considering that despite the efforts made and the progress achieved in some areas of economic and social development, vast sectors of our societies, in particular in the developing and the least developed countries, are still facing serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality in income growth and distribution, education and health,

Noting that the Commission for Social Development will consider at its forty-third session in 2005 as its priority theme "Review of the further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly",

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* the need to take effective measures to implement the commitments made by heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] which established a new consensus to place people at the centre of development policies and pledged to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration so as to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Also reaffirms* the decisions on further action and initiatives to accelerate social development for all, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session and contained in the further initiatives for social development;[2]

4. *Further reaffirms* that the aim of social integration is to create a "society for all", in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play and that such an inclusive society must be based on respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural and religious diversity, social justice and the special needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, democratic participation and the rule of law;

5. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

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[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] A/58/172.

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms, by removing persistent barriers against women;

7. *Stresses* that, in addition to social policies, progress in the realization of long-term goals, such as equity, social cohesion and an adequate accumulation of human capital, requires supportive and coherent short-term and long-term economic policies at the national and international levels;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of integrating economic and social policies in promoting human resources development and enhancing the process of development, invites the Economic and Social Council, at the highest possible level, to assess the effectiveness of such integration and make recommendations in this regard to the General Assembly, requests the Commission for Social Development to continue giving particular attention to this issue in its forthcoming sessions, and invites the different entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to take into account the integration of economic and social policies in their respective domains;

9. *Stresses* the necessity of ensuring the effective involvement of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process through, inter alia, greater participation in international economic forums, thereby ensuring the transparency and accountability of international financial institutions with respect to according a central position for social development in their policies and programmes;

10. *Reaffirms* that, given the growing and multifaceted interdependence of all regions and countries, coherent and strengthened international cooperation as well as a favourable external economic environment, are indispensable complements to the efforts of developing countries, including least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to promote their social development and eradicate poverty;

11. *Recognizes* that achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] demands a new partnership between developed and developing countries and, in this context, stresses the importance of achieving sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, as well as mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international and financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems;

12. *Also recognizes* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and further recognizes that to build support for official development assistance, heads of State and Government have pledged further to improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness;

13. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards achieving the target of providing 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product as official development assistance to developing countries and from 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross domestic product as official development assistance to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking an examination of the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

14. *Reaffirms* that recipient and donor countries, as well as international institutions, should strive to make official development assistance more effective;

15. *Underlines* the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty reduction and the strengthening of their democratic systems, while reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and that national policies have the leading role in the development process;

16. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and underlines the fact that at the international level, the recent initiatives towards building voluntary partnerships for social development should be encouraged and discussed further at, inter alia, the intergovernmental level;

17. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector at the national and international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial, but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their responsibilities towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability;

18. *Reaffirms* that education, employment creation and improvement in working conditions, which are some of the indispensable elements of poverty eradication, social integration, gender equality and overall development, should be at the centre of development strategies and international cooperation in support of national policies, and recognizes the need to promote employment that meets labour standards as defined in relevant International Labour Organization and other international instruments;

19. *Encourages*, in this context, current initiatives of the United Nations system on the elaboration of comprehensive employment strategies and measures to

foster youth employment, bearing in mind relevant international instruments pertaining to youth;

20. *Reaffirms* the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimension of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

21. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the further implementation of the commitments made at Copenhagen and the further initiatives agreed upon at Geneva, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to have the primary responsibility in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

22. *Recalls*, in this regard, its request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity, while also noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report with recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council on their methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body, bearing in mind the progress recently achieved in this regard by certain commissions, especially by the Commission on Sustainable Development; the functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Economic and Social Council should report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

23. *Notes* its decision to review in 2005 the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration and that there is scope for a major event in this context, and in this regard calls upon the Commission for Social Development to transmit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the substantial outcome of its review of the further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly for its consideration in 2005;

24. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and the programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the commitments and undertakings contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and in the further initiatives for social development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social

Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the Assembly at that session.